

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1 - 11 (cancelled).

- 1 12. (previously presented) A machine for making a
- 2 nonwoven web comprising:
 - 3 a drawing assembly for drawing filaments which pass
 - 4 therethrough with air to form drawn filaments,
 - 5 a diffuser having an inlet zone formed by a convergent
 - 6 nozzle and a divergent nozzle connected to said convergent
 - 7 nozzle for opening drawn filaments which pass therethrough
 - 8 into opened filaments,
 - 9 a rail for electrostatically charging said opened
 - 10 filaments to form charged filaments, and
 - 11 a receiving belt for receiving said charged filaments,
 - 12 wherein a slot is formed between the drawing assembly
 - 13 and the diffuser for delivery of a flow of air onto said
 - 14 filaments, said slot opening to ambient air for intake of
 - 15 air by a venturi effect produced in the divergent nozzle by
 - 16 air passing therethrough with said drawn filaments, and
 - 17 said convergent and divergent nozzles slow the passing
 - 18 filaments to enhance spreading of the filaments by said
 - 19 electrostatically charging and thereby cooperatively obtain

20 an improved spreading of the filaments and a reduced rebound
21 phenomena of filaments on said receiving belt.

1 13. (previously presented) The machine of claim 12,
2 wherein said drawing assembly includes a drawing slot outlet
3 from which the drawn filaments are emitted, said drawn
4 filaments being received in said diffuser inlet zone, and
5 said slot delivers said flow of air at said drawing slot
6 outlet to reduce the air speed and the speed of the passing
7 filaments.

1 14. (previously presented) The machine of claim 13,
2 wherein a second slot remote of said first-mentioned slot
3 extends through said diffuser and opens into said divergent
4 nozzle for injection therein of air by venturi effect
5 produced in the divergent nozzle by air passing therethrough
6 with said drawn filaments.

1 15. (previously presented) The machine of claim 14,
2 wherein said slots take in air by venturi effect only.

1 16. (previously presented) The machine of claim 15,
2 wherein said rail is located between said divergent nozzle
3 and said receiving belt.

1 17. (previously presented) The machine of claim 12,
2 wherein said rail is located upstream from said divergent
3 nozzle.

1 18. (previously presented) The machine of claim 17,
2 wherein said convergent and divergent nozzles are connected
3 by a rectilinear slot.

1 19. (previously presented) The machine of claim 18,
2 wherein said rail is located in said rectilinear slot.

1 20. (previously presented) A machine for making a
2 nonwoven web comprising:
3 a drawing assembly for drawing filaments which pass
4 therethrough with air to form drawn filaments,
5 a diffuser having an inlet zone formed by a convergent
6 nozzle and a divergent nozzle connected to said convergent
7 nozzle for opening drawn filaments which pass therethrough
8 into opened filaments,
9 a rail for electrostatically charging said opened
10 filaments to form charged filaments, and
11 a receiving belt for receiving said charged filaments,
12 wherein a slot is formed in the divergent nozzle for
13 delivery of a flow of air onto said filaments, said slot
14 opening to ambient air for intake of air by a venturi effect

15 produced in the divergent nozzle by air passing therethrough
16 with said drawn filaments, and

17 said convergent and divergent nozzles slow the passing
18 filaments to enhance spreading of the filaments by said
19 electrostatically charging and thereby cooperatively obtain
20 an improved spreading of the filaments and a reduced rebound
21 phenomena of filaments on said receiving belt.

1 21. (previously presented) The machine of claim 20,
2 wherein a second slot remote of said first-mentioned slot is
3 formed between said drawing assembly and said diffuser for
4 delivery of a flow of air into said filaments, said slots
5 opening to the ambient air for intake of air by a venturi
6 effect produced in the divergent nozzle by air passing
7 therethrough with said drawn filaments.

1 22. (previously presented) The machine of claim 21,
2 wherein said drawing assembly includes a drawing slot outlet
3 from which the drawn filaments are emitted, said drawn
4 filaments being received in said diffuser inlet zone, and
5 said second slot delivers said flow of air at said drawing
6 slot outlet to reduce the air speed and the speed of the
7 passing filaments.

1 23. (previously presented) The machine of claim 22,
2 wherein said slots take in air by venturi effect only.

1 24. (previously presented) The machine of claim 21,
2 wherein said rail is located between said divergent nozzle
3 and said receiving belt.

25. (cancelled).